sanctioned and disbursed by All India Financial Institutions/ Investment Institutions to industrial units in Assam during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 are as under :

(Rs. crores)

Year	Sanctions	Disbursements
1993-94	69.9	82.9
1994-95	127.3	78.1
1995-96	643.4	125.7

(b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) IDBI has reported that the decision to locate a project in a particular State/Region vests with the promoters and they in turn are guided by such factors as availability of infrastructure, raw materials, skilled labour, proximity of the location of the market for their products and incentives from the State Government. Financial Institutions assess the location State Government. Financial Institutions assess the location from the angle of its suitability to the project.

IDBI has further reported that all financially, economically, commercially viable and technically feasible projects are supported by institutions irrespective of their location.

Health Insurance Scheme

4259. SHRI VIJAY PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to privatise health insurance scheme;

(b) if so, whether any time frame and guidelines in this regard has been issued; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) to (c) The Finance Minister in the Budget Speech has made the following announcement :-

> .....GIC has frankly admitted that its Mediclaim policy has not been successful and that it would like to promote joint ventures in this line of business. GIC is also confident of facing competition in the health insurance business. Accordingly, I propose to move necessary amendments to enable GIC to float joint ventures and also to allow entry of selected Indian players in the health insurance sector."

Before these proposals could be implemented, relevant Sections of General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Act, 1972 require appropriate amendments. A time frame for formulation of guidelines in this regard will arise only after carrying out necessary legislative changes.

[Translation]

Printing of Indian Currency in Foreign Countries

4260. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to print Indian Currency in foreign countries;

(b) if so, whether any assessment of its effect on the future of the employees working in various presses has been assessed;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) As a one time measure, Government has asked RBI to import 3600 million pieces of notes – 2000 million pieces of Rs. 100 and 1600 million pieces of Rs. 500 denominations.

(b) to (d) This will not have any adverse effect on the future of employees working in the various presses as the present import is resorted to as a one time measure because there is a wide gap between the printing capacity of these presses and the demand of RBI for fresh notes.

[English]

Amendments In the Article 124 of the Constitution

4261. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to consult all political parties on its proposal to amend Article 124 of the Constitution dealing with the Union judiciary;

(b) if so, whether the amendment to the article has been found necessary in the wake of the recent judgement of the Supreme Court which vested all rights relating to the transfer and appointment of judges in itself;

(c) if so, the whether the Government have obtained the approval of all the parties in introducing this legislation; and

(d) if so, by when the legislation in this regard is likely to be introduced ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) to (d) The Government proposes to introduce a Constitution Amendment Bill in the Parliament to make changes in the existing system of appointment of Judges of the Supreme Court, Chief Justices of the High Courts, Judges of the High Courts and transfer of Judges of the High Courts.